

**Amendments to the CLAIMS:**

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1-3, wherein said reflecting optical element is a reflecting prism.
3. (Currently Amended) An electronic image pickup system, comprising:  
an optical-path bending optical system comprising in order from an object side thereof,  
a first lens group that is fixed during zooming,  
a second lens group that includes at least one lens component and moves in such a way that, upon zooming, a spacing between said first lens group and said second lens group varies,  
a third lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said second lens group and said third lens group upon zooming,  
a fourth lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said third lens group and said fourth lens group upon zooming, and  
a fifth lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said fourth lens group and said fifth lens group upon zooming,  
wherein said first lens group comprises at least one reflecting optical element for bending an optical path; and  
an electronic image pickup device located on an image side of said optical path-bending optical system;  
~~The electronic image system according to claim 1,~~ wherein said first lens group comprises, in order from an the object side thereof,

a 1-1<sup>st</sup> lens subgroup that includes said reflecting optical element and has negative refracting power, and

a 1-2<sup>nd</sup> lens subgroup that has positive refracting power.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said 1-2<sup>nd</sup> lens subgroup is a positive single lens located on a an image side of said reflecting optical element.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said second lens group ~~includes one lens component~~ is one.

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said third lens group ~~includes two lens components~~ is two.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said fourth lens group ~~includes one lens component~~ is one.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said fifth lens group ~~includes one lens component~~ is one.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said first lens group has negative refracting power.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said second lens group has positive refracting power.
12. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said third lens group has positive refracting power.
13. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said fourth lens group has negative refracting power.
14. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said fifth lens group has positive refracting power.
15. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said third lens group moves during zooming.
16. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said fourth lens group moves during zooming.
17. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said fifth lens group remains fixed during zooming.
18. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein a low-pass filter is located between said fifth lens group and said electronic image pickup device.
19. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 1 3, wherein said first lens group, said second lens group, said third lens group, said fourth lens group and said fifth lens group in said optical path-bending optical system are three lens

groups each having positive refracting power and two lens groups each having negative refracting power.

20. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein said optical path-bending optical system comprises said reflecting optical element and 7 lens components.

21. (Original) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said 7 lens components is a cemented lens component comprising a positive lens and a negative lens.